(b) and (c) There is no apparent threat to Konkan Railways due to rise in sea level. Konkan area is prone to heavy to very heavy rainfall during monsoon months, for which IMD issues heavy rainfall warnings.

Technology for increasing paddy production

1767. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Information Forecasting Assessment Council has developed a technology, which having been tried in Bihar, resulted in trebling the production of paddy; and

(b) if so, whether the technology has been tried in other regions also, if so, the details thereof and the resultant increase in productivity thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council has promoted and facilitated the adoption of a 'Systems Approach' using scientific agronomic practices to suit the prevalent local agro-climatic conditions in low productive areas of Sone Command distributaries of Patna district, Bihar in a demonstrative project mode. Farmers who have adopted this technology have obtained enhanced yields in paddy crop by 2 to 3 times of earlier productivity levels.

(b) Systems Approach has also been adopted in Deoria and Balia districts of eastern UP in projects made, and farmers who have adopted the technology have obtained enhanced yields in paddy crop by about two times.

Bus services between India and Pakistan

1768. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bus services existing between India and Pakistan so far;

(b) the revenue earned so far in each case; and

(c) the passengers journeyed so far in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) So far only one point-to-point bus service between India and Pakistan, namely, Delhi-

Lahore bus service (being operated by Delhi Transport Corporation) is in operation In addition, in Srinagar, there is an arrangement since 7th April, 2005 of buses plying upto LOC and allowing passengers to cross the border and border the bus on the other side of LOC to reach Muzaffarabad. This service is being operated by Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation between Srinagar and LOC.

(b) As per information made available by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC), DTC has earned a revenue of Rs.2,39,28,137/- during the period 11-07-2003 to 31-10-2005 and JKSRTC has earned a revenue of Rs. 8,49,000/- till date.

(c) As per information provided by DTC and JKSRTC, they have carried 17740 and 707 number of passengers respectively.

Clearance of National Highway Projects

1769. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Projects worth Rs. 482 crore are being thwarted for want of necessary clearance in Northern and Western regions of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 62 projects of the Northern Region worth Rs.133 crore and 71 projects of the Western Region worth Rs. 349 crore are lying pending;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the clearances of the said National Highway Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no specific definition as to which States are identified in the Northern region and Western region. However, information is being given for the State of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh for the Northern region and for the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa for the Western region.

130 Nos. of National Highways improvement works included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 costing Rs. 324.07 crores were received from the State